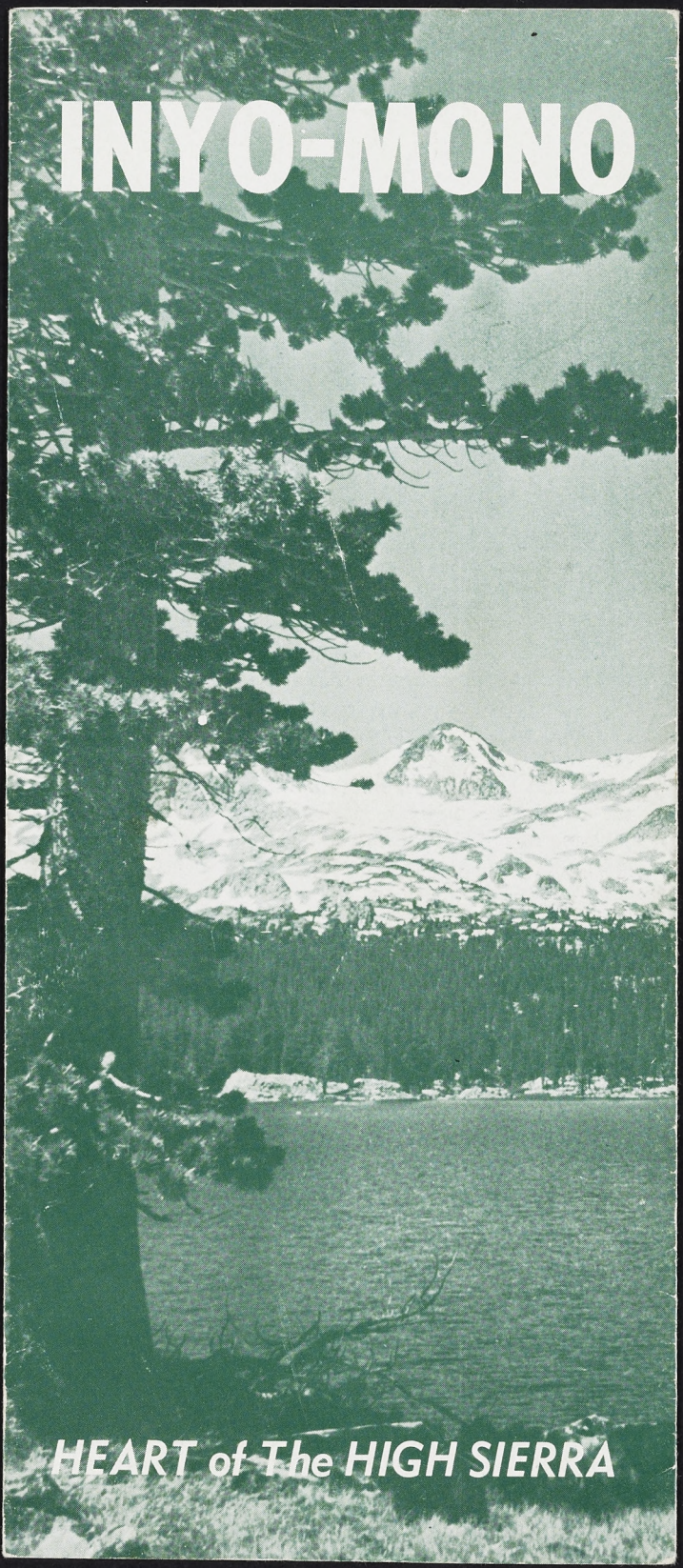
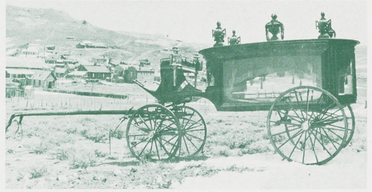
INYO-MONO



HEART of The HIGH SIERRA



Famous Old Hearse at Ghost Town of Bodie

HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST

One could well spend a month in visiting the historical points of interest in the two counties, without taking time out for anything else. One by one, we'll enumerate them, and give you a brief resume of their histories.

BODIE

Probably you have heard of "The Bad Man from Bodie" and you'll find the remnants of Bodie, in Mono county, very well preserved. Here was one of the wildest of the old mining camps, which developed great wealth in the late seventies and eighties, accompanied by a record of killings that became so frequent that finally a Vigilance Committee known as the "601" was called to stamp them out. It is twelve miles from Bridgeport, and is the companion city to old Aurora, just over the state line, in Nevada.

BRIDGEPORT

As the county seat of Mono county, Bridgeport has had its share of historic romance and the famous old court house there is likened by historians to the one in Mariposa—the only two of their kind left in California. At present, Bridgeport is the center of a vast cattle raising country and a gateway to the High Sierra for pack trips.

MONO LAKE

The Mono Lake area is particularly interesting to the historian, for it was in this vicinity that Jedediah Smith first discovered gold in 1826, many years before the discovery of gold by Marshall on the American river in '48. The old towns of Monoville and Dogtown were really the start of the gold camps in Mono county, and the remains of the placer operations there are still to be seen. Both Kit Carson and Mark Twain were also at Mono Lake, and it was there that some of the earlier Indian battles took place. It's a good place to spend a week.

Historic Mono County Court House at Bridgeport

LEEVINING

Leevining got its name when one Lee Vining and his companions settled there in the early sixties after a hectic trip through Bloody Canyon, after coming east over the Sierra on what is now known as Tioga Pass. It was from this point that many of the early gold explorations were made, and Leevining is now the hub of four routes—to the north and south on Highway 395, as well as the junction of Highway 120, coming from Benton and the east, and leading over Tioga Pass to Yosemite on the route westward.

BENTON

Benton, some thirty miles north of Bishop, is famed as the starting place of the famous Walker expedition, as well as for its hot springs. From that point Walker and his intrepid explorers traversed the Owens Valley southward to the point where Walker Pass extends westward to the Kern river country. Benton was also one of the earlier silver camps, producing some seven millions, and the Boothill cemetery there is still intact.

INDIAN PETROGLYPHS

The historic rock carvings and picture rocks found north of Bishop at Fish Slough and Chalfant Valley are the work of a vanished race, and no one has been found who can interpret their meaning. Undoubtedly, they tell the stories of chases and hunts, of love and hate, of battles between the tribes which inhabited this area. They are extremely photogenic, as they are out in the bright sunlight, rather than in caves, often hard to photograph.

Lake Mary, Mammoth Lakes

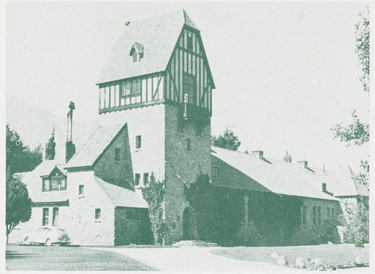
OLD MAMMOTH

There is little left of the old mining town of Mammoth, other than the log frames of two very interesting old buildings, the foundations of a city that once held several thousand, and the tunnels in the mountain from which millions in gold poured in 1879 and 1880, when a snow storm heaped twenty-eight feet of snow on the town, and caused an exodus that spelled the doom of this short-lived mining camp. When you visit the Mammoth Lakes, you'll want to see this most interesting sight.

BISHOP

Bishop, the metropolis of Northern Inyo county, is the center of a number of points of historic interest. It was first known as Bishop Creek, and was established in 1861 by Samuel Bishop, who brought some six hundred head of cattle from Fort Tejon in that year, many of which were lost to the hostile Indians who then inhabited this area. Bishop is also the headquartering point for a number of pack trips into the back country, and Bishop Creek is famed throughout the land.

Petroglyphs Near Bishop



State Fish Hatchery Near Independence

INDEPENDENCE

Independence is indeed one of the most interesting little cities to be found in California, for here is told the beautiful story of Winnedumah . . . here is the court house which houses the historic exhibits of the Eastern California Museum . . . exhibits that should take a day of your time to view. They include sidesaddles of a former year, a wheelbarrow pegged together with wooden pegs, with a tree trunk section for a wheel. In the collection as well is the chair of Pat Reddy, famed attorney of earlier and wilder days who practiced in Bodie and Panamint, and pleaded his cases from the latter camp in the court house at Independence. Here also are remains of old Fort Independence, established in the early sixties to combat and finally conquer the hostile Indians.

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CHARLEY'S BUTTE

In the old days of Indian occupancy of Inyo county, when the whites were trying to settle here, a group of two families including a woman and child, and accompanied by a negro, one Charley Tyler, were attacked by Indians. The group escaped the Indians, and found the safety of Fort Independence, but only at the cost of the life of Charley, who remained behind to fight the Indians off while the others made their escape. This point is readily identified just to the west of the highway.

Throughout this area you will find constant reminders of the war between the whites and the Indians in the early sixties, in the form of Indian arrow heads, the barrels of old muskets, and the caves where the Indians hid from the blue-coated soldiers of that day.

Scenic Alabama Hills West of Lone Pine

LONE PINE

Lone Pine was established in 1861, and is now the principal trading center of South Inyo county. In earlier days it supplied the mines of that area and is closely connected with the development of Cerro Gordo, and the wildness of the early-day mining camps. It is the central point between the highest and the lowest points in the United States, with Mt. Whitney to the west, and Death Valley with its Bad Water to the east. Lone Pine is also famed as the locale for a great number of western motion pictures, shot in the famed Alabama Hills, and there is seldom a time when a picture company is not on location there.

MAJESTIC MT. WHITNEY

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Highest point in United States, elev. 14,496 ft. Located west of Lone Pine. It is from the sides of this gigantic peak that the Golden Trout of the High Sierra is said to have originated.

BIG PINE

Gateway to Big Pine Canyon, home of the Palisade Glacier, southernmost glacier in the United States. Excellent fishing and hunting abounds in this area. Headquarters for pack trips into High Sierra. Paved road east from Big Pine goes over Westgard Pass and into north end of Death Valley to Scotty's Castle and other scenic wonders.

KEELER

Keeler is far from a ghost town, but it has a spice of romance to its history that dates back to the famed Cerro Gordo mines in the early seventies, when millions in gold, silver and lead came down to Keeler on burro back, was melted into bullion bars at the smelter there, and then hauled by wagon train to Los Angeles and what is now Santa Monica, by the famed Remi Nadeau and his associates.

DARWIN

Another historic old mining town, from which some millions in silver and lead were taken, only to see it become something of a ghost town for many years, and to be revived recently by development brought about by a large mining company, and which may mean the reopening of some of the most famous mines of Inyo. It is approximately twenty-four miles south and east of Keeler, still has its Boothill Cemetery, and is well worth a visit. Darwin Falls, slightly eastward toward Panamint Springs, is one of the wonders of the Panamints and Death Valley areas.

OLANCHA

Olancha is one of the gateways to Death Valley, and is particularly famed, with Old Cartago, as the terminus for the famous "Bessie Brady" a steamer which plied the waters of Owens Lake during the Cerro Gordo days. Olancha is also one of the camping places of Captain Walker and his party, and is one of the favorite entry ways to the High Sierra for pack trips back to the famed Cottonwood Lakes and other areas. Today, Owens Lake is practically dry, and the old lake bed produces great quantities of soda ash and other chemicals.

LITTLE LAKE

An interesting little settlement at the south end of Inyo county, which recently gained national fame due to the discovery of "Pinto Joe" (said to be the oldest Indian discovery and excavation in the nation). "Pinto Joe" is merely the name given to the long-forgotten Indian tribe which inhabited the Little Lake area as long as ten-thousand years ago, according to scientists and geologists who made the discovery for Southwest Museum in Los Angeles. The many pack trips originating here, have given Little Lake its title: "Gateway to the High Sierra."

The Famous Sand Dunes of Death Valley

DEATH VALLEY

Probably no place in the United States has the combination of historic romance, strange beauty of mountain and sand dunes, as has Death Valley. The Manley party of 1849, coupled with stories of the Jayhawkers, have given Death Valley a story of romantic, if somewhat pathetic interest. In later years, the development of Panamint and other wild mining camps in the hills surrounding the valley, added another and wilder chapter to its history, and in the early part of this century, the development of Bullfrog and Rhyolite and other more or less wild mining camps added still another chapter to its interesting history. One can spend weeks in Death Valley visiting the old borax works and following the trail of the famous 20-mule teams, but at least a three-day visit is a literal "must" in your travel plans. Spring, fall and winter are excellent, but summer trips are not advised.

The Contrast - Winter Sports

Trout Fishing at Its Best

FISHING AND HUNTING

Both Inyo and Mono counties have been known for years as a literal paradise for fishing and hunting. The streams and lakes are well stocked, and it is planned to double trout planting by means of added rearing ponds.

Among the best known trout are the Rainbow, the Eastern Brook, the German Brown and the Cut-throat in the lower streams and lakes, while in the higher lakes —above 10,000 feet—are plenty of the famous Golden Trout.

The expert fisherman will have no difficulty in getting his limits in the Owens River and in hundreds of lakes and streams along the paved highways. When the fish are biting well, even the amateur has fairly good luck, but in the lakes reached by pack train, as well as the streams (of which there are several thousand between Olancha to the south, and the Nevada border to the north) there is no difficulty in securing limits of beautiful trout that are certain to be the envy of your friends everywhere.

For the hunter there is plenty of game! Deer, ducks, geese and pheasants are plentiful.

Hunting Is A Favorite Pastime

Devil's Postpile National Monument

PACK TRIPS INTO THE HIGH SIERRA

Practically all of the packers in this area are members of the Eastern High Sierra Packers' Association, and this organization can well be proud of the high standard which its members maintain. Horses and mules used are well broken, trained in their sure-footedness on mountain trails, and kept in excellent condition.

The packers in this group have also developed a spirit of hospitality which is indeed welcome to the jaded traveler. They have excellent guides and cooks, and every effort is made for the convenience and comfort of those who wish to pack into the back country for fishing or hunting, or to merely glory in the beauty of this little-known land.

Thousands of Rushing Mountain Streams

World Famous Crowley Lake

Additional Information

There are perhaps a hundred questions you'll want to ask about Inyo and Mono counties after you have read this booklet. To answer your questions there are many sources to write for correct information. The following will gladly supply data:

EASTERN HIGH SIERRA PACKERS' ASSOCIATION—
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA
Special folders available listing more than 25 separate pack trains, services they offer, areas they service, and complete data on back country trips, as well as day rides.

MONO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—
BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA
Complete data on Mono county resorts, tourist facilities, and general information on the county.

BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA
Maintains a full-time tourist information office at 314 North Main Street. Furnishes information on the entire Inyo-Mono area, as well as specific information on the Bishop area.

LONE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—
LONE PINE, CALIFORNIA
Headquarters for information on southern Inyo county, Death Valley—lowest point in the United States—or Mt. Whitney, highest peak in the United States.

INDEPENDENCE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL MEN'S CLUB—INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA
Furnishes specific information on Independence, Inyo's county seat, or general information on Inyo county.

BIG PINE CIVIC CLUB—
BIG PINE, CALIFORNIA
Write for data on Palisade Glacier up Big Pine canyon, southern-most glacier in the United States.

MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—
BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA
General information on Mono county.

INYO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—
INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA
General information on Inyo county.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA OR MAIN OFFICE, LOS ANGELES
Complete information on roads, accommodations, maps, etc., for members.

EASTERN SIERRA MOTEL & HOTEL ASSOCIATION
Bishop, California
Rates and information on accommodations

Sponsored by:
INYO AND MONO COUNTY
BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

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INYO-MONO

HEART of The HIGH SIERRA

Beautiful Mono Lake

WELCOME TO INYO-MONO!

Within these two counties — Inyo and Mono, there is probably a greater variety of things to interest the visitor than in any comparable part of California.

Driving along the highway, knowing nothing of what is to be found on the back roads and up in the hills, the ordinary tourist is inclined to view the High Sierra, with its snow-clad peaks, and to thrill with the beauty of the lakes and streams. Perhaps the amateur photographers will wish to stop frequently to record on film some particularly beautiful view.

But if one is inclined to really visit this wonderland of beauty and romance—this land of Inyo-Mono—ten days will really be too little to see it all. There is so much to do—so much to see—that a full month would be all too little time, and then the visitor would probably have to leave with many interesting sights unseen.

In this brief booklet it will be impossible to tell you of all Inyo-Mono has in store for you, and for that reason we shall only attempt to cover the highlights. Maps of the area will aid you in seeking out the particular points of interest you may wish to see.

ANTELOPE VALLEY

In northern Mono county is found some of the finest scenic and recreational attractions in Inyo-Mono. Pack trains, resorts, motels, cafes and other businesses offer a variety of services to the vacationist. Coleville serves as the business hub of the valley. Topaz Lake is widely known for its huge trout and fine duck and goose hunting. Northern Mono County Conservation Club is active in upland game projects in the area. Cattle raising and farming are solid industries. Scenic West Walker River drains through the valley and into Topaz Lake, affording the motorist some breath-taking views. John C. Fremont and Kit Carson were the earliest white men to come to this region. Fremont, arriving in 1846, was the first.

Beautiful Mono Lake

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